

# Trinity Today



Trinity Presbyterian Church, Little Rock November 2017

# F.R.E.D. Talk

**November 19**

## **Loving Children with the Extravagant Love of Christ**

On the third Sunday of each month our FRED Talks (Faith, Religion, Education & Discussion) take on different goals. Some talks are about learning who we are as Christians and as Presbyterians – our theology, our Bible, our doctrines. Some talks aim to help us have greater understanding and tolerance about other religions and things happening in our world. Yet other talks, like the one this month, have a goal of helping open our eyes to things happening right here in our community and learning how we, as people of faith, can work to make it a better place.

Come hear this month's third Sunday FRED Talk speaker, Mary Carol Pederson, who is co-founder and Pulaski County coordinator for The Call. Every year there are 8,200 children in



**AN AVERAGE OF  
12 CHILDREN  
ENTER  
ARKANSAS'  
FOSTER  
CARE SYSTEM  
EVERY DAY.**

Arkansas foster care due to abuse or neglect, but there are only 1,600 families available to care for them. The mission of The Call is to educate, equip, and encourage the Christian community to help provide a future and a hope for these hurting children. Trinity members Brad and Julianne Sublette worked closely with The Call through their process of adoption.

So please join us on Sunday, November 19 in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments starting at 9:00am. The talk will begin at 9:15.



## All About Church Communication

When I began church work back in 1991, the weekly Sunday worship bulletin announcements were the main form of congregational communication. If you wanted to know what was going on in the life of the church, you'd turn to that last bulletin page to see the upcoming events. These days, there are a variety of ways that you can keep up with events at Trinity.

- Trinity sends out a midweek email on Wednesdays that contains a week's calendar of events, the coming Sunday's volunteers, and announcements of upcoming events. If you have a church-related event that you'd like to advertise, send your information to the church office by phone call (868-5848) or email ([TrinityPresLR@gmail.com](mailto:TrinityPresLR@gmail.com)) by the end of the day on Tuesdays. We've recently switched our weekly update emails to a different format, and your email program

might now be sending our messages to your junk email folder. Add TrinityPresLR@gmail.com to your email program's address book or safe sender list, or call the church office for assistance if you're not receiving the weekly update email.

- Jared Brown keeps Trinity's web page ([www.TrinityPresLR.com](http://www.TrinityPresLR.com)) and Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/TrinityPres](http://www.facebook.com/TrinityPres)) current with news of upcoming events, as well as photos and videos of past events.
- Jeff Price designs our monthly newsletter, *Trinity Today*. Jeff works on the newsletter during the last week of each month and it's mailed to the congregation and available online just prior to the first Sunday of the month. If you have photos of church events or church-related event information for publication, be sure to email them to Jeff at [pastorjeffprice@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjeffprice@gmail.com) by the 25th of the month.
- And, of course, each week there are the Sunday worship bulletin announcements listing upcoming events. The bulletin is finalized and printed on Thursdays. If you have a church-related event to announce, send your information to the church office by the end of the day on Wednesdays.

Keep in touch! Make sure we have your current contact information for email, postal mail, and phone calls. It's an exciting time at Trinity with Advent just around the corner, and we don't want you to miss a thing.

—Julie Peak, Church Secretary

# YOUTH

## TRINITY NIGHTS TOGETHER!

Every Sunday Night starting at 5:30

### November 5: *Youth Sunday Prep*

Youth Sunday is fast approaching and the TNT group is working hard to make sure the music, prayers, and message will be spot-on when the youth take charge of

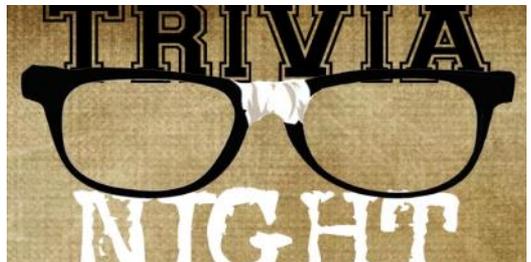


the Sunday morning service! We hope everyone will join us in singing our favorite songs and reading our favorite scriptures! We will also be working on a special art project for worship.

### November 12: *Trivia*

Do you know what memory was taken from Elsa in *Frozen*? Jared's middle name? The Cowboys' quarterback? TNT gets smart as teams will be facing off in a winner-take-all trivia extravaganza!

Trivia questions will be posed from various topics including current events,



biblical references, music and questions related to our own church!

## **November 19: *The great Turkey Day Challenge***

How do we define gratitude?

Thanksgiving is known as a day of thanks for all we have been given.

Through games and personal

challenges, we will consider what we

have to be grateful for through Christ's sacrifice on the cross.



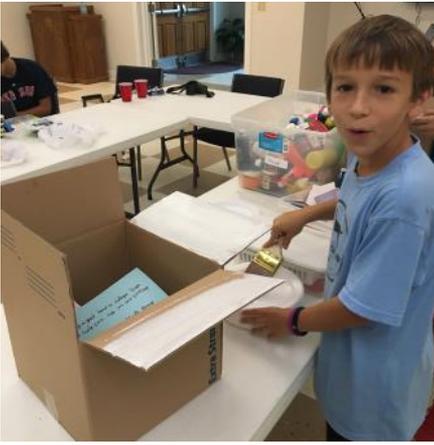
## **November 26: *Holiday Decoration Build-Off!***

We will be building 3 types of decorations and prizes will be given for the most creative! We will also be decorating the Youth Room in preparation for the coming Christmas season!



Julie Price leads Youth Group in worship preparation.

**Don't Miss Youth-Led Worship  
November 12  
Jared Brown Preaching**



## Trinity Youth Group Sends Gifts to College Students

Thirteen Trinity members attending colleges all over the country received care packages from our youth group this month! We sent boxes full of snacks, supplies, and words of love to get these tired college minds through the upcoming test schedules and long nights of studying. We hope each of these packages found their college dorms and are now helping bring love to a Trinity youth far from home!

# Thirtieth Anniversary Tree

By David Bass

As part of the 30th anniversary celebration of Trinity Presbyterian Church, a new 4-foot evergreen tree has been planted in the church's front yard. The tree is a Dwarf Alberta Spruce and will retain its conical shape while growing only about 4 inches per year with a potential to eventually reach up to 10-11 feet tall. It is hoped that the tree will thrive to be adorned and decorated for different seasons and holidays for generations to come. The beautiful evergreen boughs symbolize the everlasting love of God and are a reminder of our own capacity to love even in the harshest and coldest of times. It will be enjoyed by all those entering our church as well as our neighbors traveling Rahling Road.



# A Time to Give Thanks —Through Singing!

By Director of Music Ministries David Glaze

I truly love the fall season. There are so many things about autumn that we've grown to love and look forward to—things like the beautifully colored leaves, the cooler temperatures, apple desserts, turkeys and pumpkins and gourds and.....well, the list can go on and on! The quickly arriving fall festivals—October Fests, Halloween, and of course, Thanksgiving—bring so much excitement to our lives, letting us know that Advent and Christmas are not far behind. And music plays a huge part in these special times. Just as we have "must sing!" hymns for Lent and Easter - "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" and "Christ, the Lord, Is Risen Today" and for Advent and Christmas - "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel; O Come, All Ye Faithful and Silent Night," we also have beloved hymns for the Thanksgiving Season.

It's interesting to know that some of our favorite Thanksgiving hymns were not originally written specifically for Thanksgiving, but were brought into traditional use years after they were composed. Unfortunately, few hymns are devoted exclusively to thanking God. Among the small, rich handful we do have is "Now Thank We All Our God." German Christians sing this hymn like American believers sing the *Doxology*, yet it's loved the world over. Martin Rinkart (1586-1649) wrote the hymn—not for Thanksgiving—but for the survivors of Eilenberg, Saxony, who originally arrived there as refugees fleeing from the Swedish army.

*Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices.*

Another favorite hymn for this season of the year is "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come." It was written by Henry Alford, who was born outside of London in 1810, and served as a powerful preacher and a brilliant scholar. He wrote the hymn in 1844 specifically for the English Harvest Festival, the British version of the American Thanksgiving holiday.

At the time when "We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing" was written, the Dutch were engaged in a war of national liberation against the Catholic King Philip II of Spain. There was a terrific struggle for religious freedom that took place in the Netherlands in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. "We Gather Together" resonated because under the Spanish King, Dutch Protestants were forbidden to gather for worship. It was considered a Dutch patriotic song. The hymn, which we Americans associate with our Thanksgiving holiday, was actually written sometime in 1597 to celebrate Holland's freedom from Spain. It's first appearance in an American hymnal was in 1903. By World War I, we started to see ourselves in this hymn, and the popularity increased during World War II, when "the wicked oppressing" were understood to include Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan. We can marvel at how timely this hymn is, even in these modern times, as we deal with current world situations!

*The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing . . .  
. . . so from the beginning the fight we were winning;  
Thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glory be Thine!  
We all do extol Thee, Thou Leader triumphant,  
And pray that Thou still our Defender wilt be.  
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation:  
Thy Name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!*





Reverend Ray Gearing was the founding pastor at Trinity. The top photo was taken in the late '80s and the bottom photo is from Trinity's 25th anniversary celebration. We all remember and honor Ray every time we refer to Gearing Fellowship Hall.

*Dear Trinity sisters and brothers,*

*Wow! Can it be thirty years already? Congratulations on having served Christ for all these years. How I wish I could be with you for our celebration, but, alas, it isn't possible.*

*Of course, this occasion takes me back to those very early days and the adventure, anticipation, hard work, praying, frustration, and the sense of pioneering that we experienced. Our charter members will remember going from pillar to post just to have a place to worship, and, among other things, the irony of meeting in a bar while some of the employees were arguing in the background.*

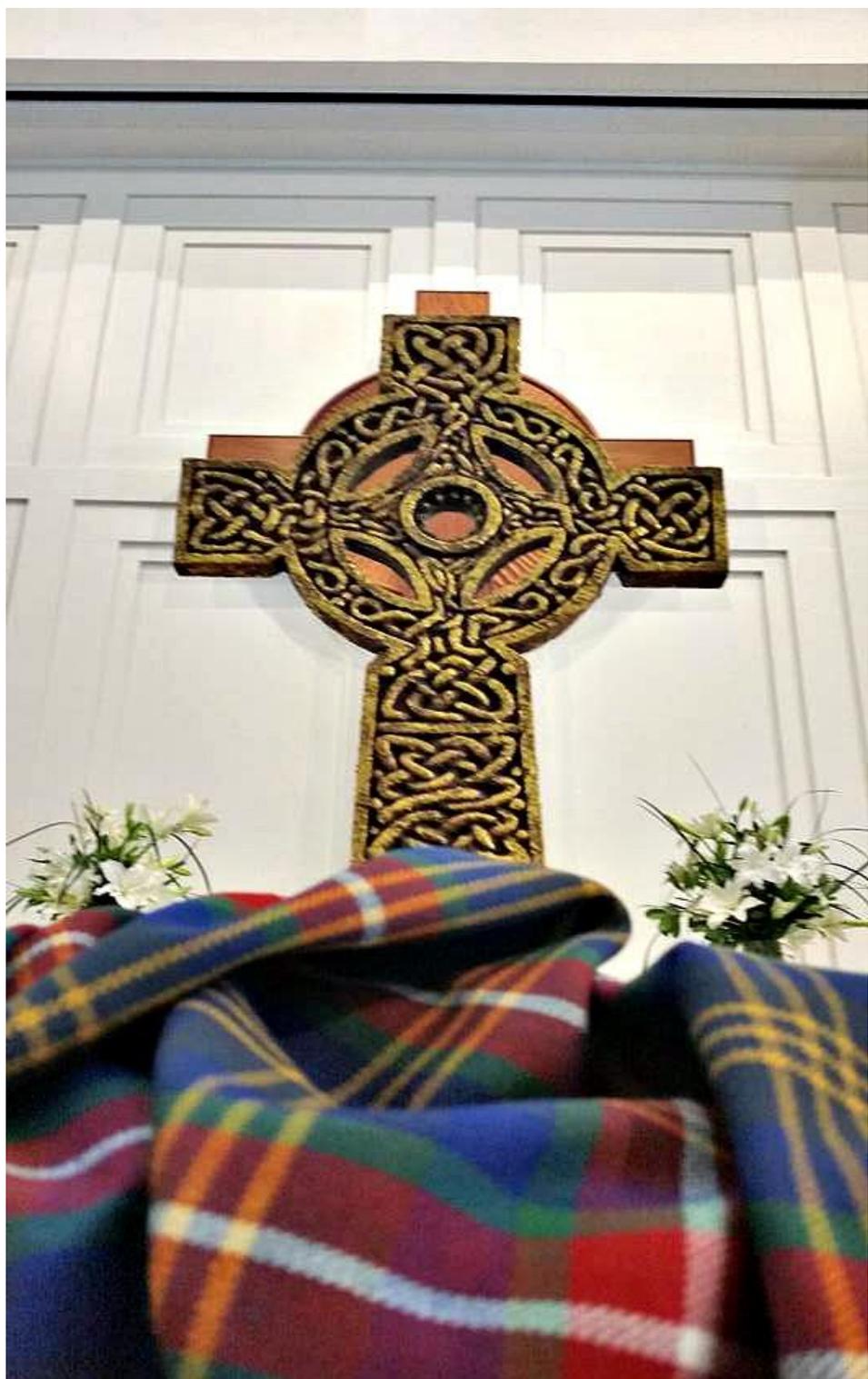
*There are two things that stand out in my mind that we were determined to do and apparently have remained with Trinity since our rather primitive beginning: to be a people that reaches out to others and to have good music in our worship. Does anyone realize that we were serving at The Stewpot before we were even a real congregation? Mick Wilson and I discovered that, if you laced the soup or stew with a generous amount of chili powder, there were lots of requests for more. And, you pioneers, do you remember that first worship service where half of our small gathering at Presbyterian Village were suffering from the July heat and the other half, sitting near the meager air conditioner, were freezing? But we had a "choir," all five of us, and we didn't do too badly. I know that good music still is an important aspect of worship for you. My prayer is that having good music and being a serving community of faith will always be hallmarks of Trinity.*

*Well, I could go on and on, but I will spare you the reminiscences of an old man. I do greet you with much love. Trinity has experienced many challenges through the years, and I commend you for meeting all of them with grace and fortitude. The older I get, the more of a Jesus freak I become, so if I were to give you a charge, it would be the same that Jesus gives: love God with everything you've got, and your neighbors, at home and around the world, as yourself.*

*Grace and peace to all,*



*Ray Gearing  
Organizing Pastor*



# Trinity Presbyterian Church Now Has Own Tartan

The Trinity Presbyterian Church Little Rock Tartan was designed in September 2017 by Fiona Whitson of Edinburgh, Scotland to commemorate Trinity's 30th anniversary. Inspired by our church sanctuary, grounds, and the stained glass over the Lord's Table, she created a beautiful fabric mural using color combinations to suggest stained glass.

Fiona included three GOLD lines together to represent the Trinity.

The other colors in the plaid each have significance: RED, for the Blood of Christ; BLUE for the water of our Baptism; WHITE for Christianity; GRAY for our Human Understanding; and GREEN, for a commitment to grow in Christian Love toward our neighbor and ourselves.

Tartan approval with The Scottish Register of Tartans is pending.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Elder Elizabeth Downes



# PC(USA) NEWS

## How new worshipping communities are reaching the ‘nones’ and ‘dones’

by Melody K. Smith | Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — New worshipping communities are successfully reaching people who have never attended church and those who had previously given up on the church.

About half of new worshipping community participants were not churchgoers before participating in their new worshipping community. In fact, for 12 percent of participants, this community is their first foray into any sort of religious gathering.

What are these communities doing to attract these “nones” and “dones”?

Research recently presented by Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Research Services at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and Religious Research Association meeting in Washington, D.C.,

indicates that the answer could partially lie in the fact that, although new worshipping communities are just as likely as congregations to engage in evangelism, the emphasis differs.

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As one leader put it,  
“You have to let people  
be who they are until  
they are ready to move  
forward.”

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Only 31 percent of congregations make frequent use of relational evangelism, compared to 77 percent of new worshipping communities. “There is also a large gap between new worshipping

communities and congregations in the use of testimonial evangelism,” said Deb Coe, coordinator for Research Services. “This is particularly interesting, given that sharing the Good News and telling your ‘God story’ is a more traditional style of evangelism, but is used by over half of the more nontraditional new worshiping communities.”

Given that new worshiping communities are reaching people who have never attended church and those who had previously given up on the church, it appears that these two methods of evangelism are working. And yet, fewer than one-half of congregations are using these methods.

In fact, new worshiping communities are more likely than congregations to frequently engage in all five styles of evangelism. Quite simply, new worshiping communities report doing more evangelism, and in more ways, than congregations do.

“It is exciting to see the changing face of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as Presbyterians of different races, languages and cultural backgrounds leave the church buildings and step out into their

### ***What is 1001 new worshiping communities?***

1001 New Worshiping Communities is a movement happening in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Across the PC(USA), God is raising up leaders in churches and presbyteries who are creating new worshiping communities. They are taking on new and varied forms of church for our changing culture. Primarily they are seeking to make and form new disciples of Jesus Christ, to change and transform the world.

In June 2012, the 220th General Assembly declared a commitment to a churchwide movement that results in the creation of 1,001 worshiping communities over the next 10 years. At a grassroots level, hundreds of diverse new worshiping communities have already formed across the nation. The Presbyterian Mission Agency is coming alongside to fan the flames of this movement, to inspire and equip the wider church to participate in the creation of 1,001 new worshiping communities in the next 10 years.

communities to build relationships, meet needs and make disciples,” said Vera White, coordinator for 1001 New Worshiping Communities. “God is up to something brand new in the church today. When we look around at our over 400 new worshiping communities we see new energy and enthusiasm.”

In addition to attracting more “nones” and “dones,” the people in new worshiping communities are younger than the typical Presbyterian, have more language diversity and are more racially diverse. Whereas 46 percent of worshiping community participants are people of color, only 9 percent of the membership of the PC (USA) are people of color.

“This increased diversity also brings a diversity in evangelism methods,” said Angie Andriot, research associate for Research Services. “New worshiping community leaders of color are more likely to emphasize the importance of evangelism: 30 percent of leaders of color list evangelism as one of their top three priorities, compared to only 8 percent of white leaders.” Additionally, leaders of color are more likely than white new worshiping communities to feel that testimonial evangelism would work within their community and thus are more likely to use this style of evangelism.

“This warrants further research,” Andriot said. “But it could speak to racial differences in the religious history and religious expression of the varying populations being reached.”

Overall, leaders rate building relationships, worshiping and disciple-making as the most important activities for their new worshiping communities.

As one leader put it, “You have to let people be who they are until they are ready to move forward.” In the interviews, many leaders refer to this combined emphasis as incarnational ministry — expressed as leaving the building and meeting people where they are. “As people of Christ, we are called not only to come but also to go,” said one new worshiping community leader.

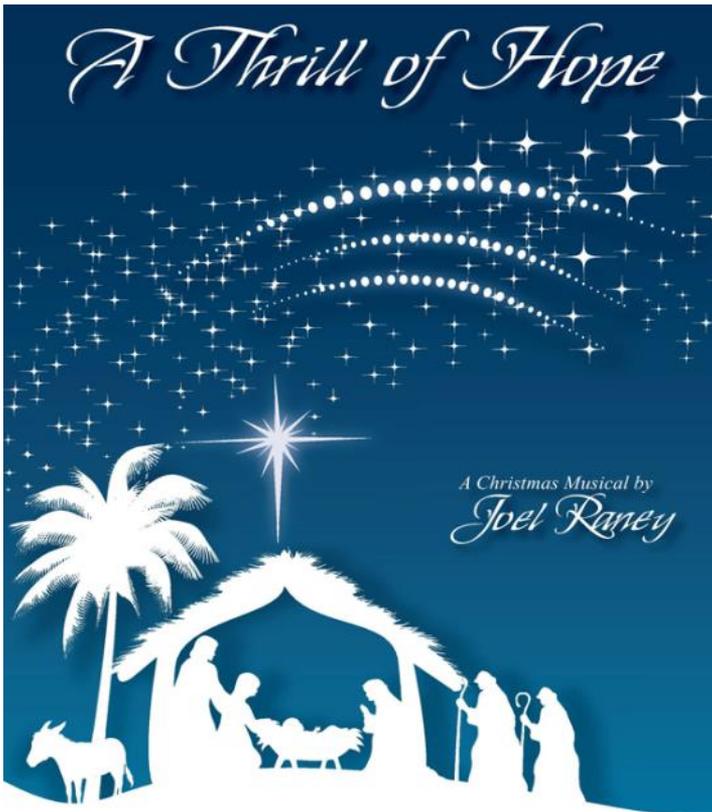
Most new worshiping communities work together with other organizations and agencies in their community, and many new worshiping communities include a mission focus as a key component of their community’s purpose.

The most common method of outreach is to provide food and shelter for members of the community at large. As one leader explained it: “We are going out to meet Jesus.” The work of mission is to help people reconnect with God, and trust in the process: “We are part of the harvest but we may never see the harvest.” Another leader, in the early stages of starting a NWC, stated that he uses mission work to create a “stealth explosion of God’s love into the neighborhood.”



Cecelia Armstrong of St. James Presbyterian Church serves communion at The Journey, a campus young adult new worshipping community. (Photo provided by Valerie @ Co. Photography)

*Results in this report come from two sources: a web-based survey of the entire known population of NWC leaders and informal interviews and focus groups with leaders, conducted by Deb Coe and Angie Andriot at two events in 2016 and 2017. In total, 95 leaders responded to the survey and 20 were interviewed.*



Save the Date!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 ❄ 10:30 a.m.

The Trinity Sanctuary Choir  
and  
Orchestra

*A Thrill of Hope*  
A Christmas Musical  
by Joel Raney